THC
(Marijuana)

Learning Objectives

- **Identify from a list the different forms THC comes in.**
- **Describe how THC affects the human body.**
- **Identify from a list the different ways THC can be consumed.**

What is THC?

- **Delta 9 – Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient in marijuana that causes users to feel *high*.**
- **Marijuana is a psychoactive or mind-altering drug.**
- **Psychoactive drugs produce a mind state similar to that of psychosis.**

What is THC?

- **Marijuana and THC are psychologically and physically addictive.**
- **Marijuana and alcohol have come to be known as *gateway drugs*.**
- **Classified by the DEA as a Schedule I Controlled Substance.**

Types of THC

1. **Marijuana**
2. **Hash/Hashish**
3. **Hash Oil**

Effects of THC

- Euphoria
- Short Term Memory Loss
- Increased Appetite
- Bloodshot Eyes
- Dry Mouth / Throat
- Increased Heart Rate
- Respiratory
- Lowered Blood Pressure
- Loss of Coordination
- Paranoia
- Vivid Hallucinations
- Panic / Anxiety Attacks
- Psychosis
- Dependence

Effects of THC - Smoking

- **Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.**
- **Smoking marijuana can cause:**
  - **Bronchitis**
  - **Lung Cancer**
  - **Brain Damage**
- **Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to become inactive.**

Effects of Withdrawa

While the effects of withdrawal have been described as mild and non life-threatening, they do include:

- **Severe anxiety**
- **Lack of pleasure**
- **Severe headaches**
- **Nausea**
- **Inability to sleep**

Testing for THC in the Army

- **THC can be detected in urine for up to 30 days.**
- **The Army tests every specimen for THC**
- **The illegal use of THC or any illegal drug goes against Soldiers Values, Warrior Pride and the tenets of the Drug Free Workplace.**

Retention Changes (drugs)

- Soldiers who test positive for illicit drugs for the first time will be evaluated for dependency, disciplined as appropriate, and processed for separation within 30 calendar days of the company commander receiving notification of the positive result from the ASAP.

- Soldiers tests positive for illicit drugs, is subsequently retained by the separation authority, then tests positive again, the Soldier chain of command will initiate administrative separation and forward the case to the first general officer in the of command for decision as to the disposition of the action. This disposition decision authority may not be delegated. This spans the soldier's career.

QUESTIONS ?????

WARRIOR

Personal Courage: Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.

Respect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.

Integrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.

Duty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.

Excellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!

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